Appl. No. 10/064,041
Amdt. dated March 27, 2006
Reply to Office action of February 17, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. Rejection of claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Van de Vanter in view of Vaidyanathan and further in view of Qualis_Verilog and Qualis_VHDL.

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Response:

The applicant would like to point out how independent claim 1 is patentably distinct from the cited prior art. Claim 1 contains the steps that are summarized below:

1) compiling a hardware description written in a text file into a circuit design

10   database;

2) converting the comment text in the text file into a code stream;

3) updating the circuit design database and compiling the updated circuit design database into an updated hardware description; and

4) converting the code stream into comment text and inserting the comment text into

15   the updated hardware description;

One key point is that the circuit design database is updated **after the hardware description has been compiled** from the original text file into the circuit design database. While the circuit design database is being updated, the code stream containing the

20   comment data is kept separate from the circuit design database, and is therefore not affected by updating the circuit design database. After the circuit design database is updated, the updated circuit design database is converted into an updated hardware description, and the comment text is extracted from the code stream and then inserted into the updated hardware description.

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On the other hand, Van de Vanter does not teach that compiled source code, commonly referred to as object code, is replaced by updated object code and is then
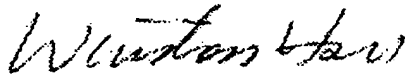
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decompiled into updated source code before reinserting comment text into the updated

source code. Van de Vanter merely teaches in column 28, lines 48 to 64 that comment text

is preserved when the source code is compiled, and is not lost during the compilation

process. Van de Vanter does not teach updating the compiled source code, as is recited in

5   the limitation of claim 1 that reads, "updating the circuit design database and

compiling the updated circuit design database into the corresponding

hardware description".

Since the cited prior art does not teach all of the subject matter recited in claim 1, the

10   prior art combination does not render claim 1 unpatentable. Claims 2-10 are dependent on

claim 1, and should be allowed if claim 1 is allowed. Reconsideration of claims 1-10 is

respectfully requested.

In view of the above statements in favor of patentability, the applicant respectfully

15   requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Sincerely yours,

Winston Hsu   Date: _____03.27.2006_____

20   Winston Hsu, Patent Agent No. 41,526

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Note: Please leave a message in my voice mail if you need to talk to me. (The time in D.C.

is 13 hours behind the Taiwan time, i.e. 9 AM in D.C. = 10 PM in Taiwan.)

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